

NM-54

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE  
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Preliminary Inventory of the Textual Records  
of the  
Office of Strategic Services

(Record Group 226)

Compiled by

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1965

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## INTRODUCTION

A military order signed by the President on June 13, 1942, established the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), which took over the main functions of the discontinued Office of the Coordinator of Information. The latter agency had been established by a Presidential order of July 11, 1941. William J. Donovan, former Coordinator of Information, was named Director of the newly established Office of Strategic Services and served in that capacity until the agency was abolished by an Executive order effective October 1, 1945. At that time the agency's records and some remaining functions were divided between the Department of State and the Department of the Army.

During its existence the Office of Strategic Services was under the jurisdiction of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff. Its main functions were gathering, evaluating, and analyzing intelligence for use in promoting the war effort, together with planning and executing programs relating to the procurement of intelligence. Psychological warfare operations, the fostering and directing of resistance movements, and the dissemination of foreign propaganda were additional functions of OSS. Part of the overall propaganda program was carried on by the Office of War Information. On March 9, 1943, however, an Executive order was issued transferring all of the foreign propaganda activities, except those for Latin America, to the Office of War Information.

The records described in this inventory are the textual records in Record Group 226, Records of the Office of Strategic Services, and amount to about 930 cubic feet. They generally cover the period 1941-46. They consist almost entirely of records of the Research and Analysis Branch, its divisions, committees, and field offices.

Many of the records created by the Office of Strategic Services are in the custody of the Department of State, the Department of the Army, and the Central Intelligence Agency. The Department of State's authorization must be obtained before individuals are permitted access to the records described in the inventory.

I N V E N T O R Y

TEXTUAL RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

I. Records of the Research and Analysis Branch

The main function of the Branch was the procurement and processing of all types of intelligence required for operations or requested by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the armed forces, and other Government agencies authorized to receive and make use of intelligence. The Branch also was responsible for the preparation of studies, maps, charts, and other graphic materials based on accumulated knowledge.

The Branch was organized along both geographic and functional lines. The geographic divisions covered the areas of Europe-Africa, the Far East, Latin America, and the Soviet Union. The functional units included the Central Information Division, which was the repository for intelligence documents obtained by all branches of OSS and from other intelligence agencies, except those documents requiring special security measures provided by the Registry of OSS.

A. Office of the Chief, 1941-46

1. Correspondence

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. 1942-46. 10 ft.  
Arranged by subject.

1

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE CIVIL AFFAIRS STAGING AREA (CASA) OUTPOST AT THE PRESIDIO, MONTEREY, CALIF. 1945. 10 in.

2

Arranged according to incoming and outgoing subseries and thereunder chronologically.

2. Cablegrams

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED BY THE COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION. 1941-42. 5 in.

3

Arranged by place of origin and thereunder chronologically.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED DESPATCHES RECEIVED FROM NEUTRAL FOREIGN POSTS. 1941-42. 1 ft.

4

Arranged alphabetically by name of post from which received and thereunder chronologically.

"MOST SECRET" CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED FROM OSS OUTPOSTS. 1942-44.  
2 ft.

Arranged alphabetically by name of post from which received and  
thereunder chronologically in two subseries: cablegrams relating to  
shipping and cablegrams relating to all other matters. 5

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CABLEGRAMS SENT TO AND RECEIVED FROM OSS OUT-  
POSTS. 1944-46. 6 ft. 6

Arranged alphabetically by name of outpost and thereunder chron-  
ologically. —

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CHRONOLOGICAL FILE OF CABLEGRAMS. May 1942-  
Jan. 1944. 1 ft. 7

Arranged according to incoming and outgoing subseries and there-  
under chronologically. —

### 3. Reports

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED INFORMATION STUDIES AND REPORTS CONCERNING  
POLITICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL, AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN VARIOUS  
COUNTRIES ("R AND A REPORTS"). 1941-46. 28 ft. 8

Arranged generally in chronological order and numbered. Some  
unarranged reports at end of series. —

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS AND STUDIES RELATING TO EUROPEAN RAIL-  
ROADS AND BRIDGES. ca. 1942-43. 1 ft. 9

Arranged alphabetically by name of country. —

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS OF THE JOINT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE COM-  
MITTEE. 1942. 5 in. 10

Arranged by subject. —

### 4. Issuances

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED ORDERS, MEMORANDA, BULLETINS, CIRCULARS, AND  
INSTRUCTIONS OF THE OSS AND ITS BRANCHES. 1943-45. 1 ft. 11

Arranged by type of issuance and thereunder chronologically. —

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED WEEKLY "NOTES OF ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE" PRE-  
PARED BY THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC WARFARE. 1942.  
5 in. 12

Arranged chronologically. This issuance was cabled from London. —

5. Miscellaneous Records

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF PROMINENT ITALIANS FROM THE "MORGUE FILES" OF THE ITALIAN NEWSPAPER, POPULO D'ITALIA.

11 ft.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person. The inclusive dates of this collection are 1929-43.

13

B. Divisions, 1940-46

1. Central Information Division

NAME AND SUBJECT CARD INDEXES TO SERIES 16. 409 ft.

14

Arranged alphabetically in three subseries: (1) by name of person; (2) by name of country; and (3) by subject. Under each name or subject within each subseries the cards are arranged according to a numerical classification scheme. A guide to the scheme is at the beginning of the series.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED DESCRIPTIVE LISTS ("ACCESSION LISTS") OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS IN SERIES 16. Sept. 22, 1941-Aug. 2, 1945.

19 binders. 3 ft.

15

Arranged chronologically by date of list and thereunder numerically.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ("REGULAR" SERIES).

16

1941-45. 503 ft.

Arranged numerically. For name and subject indexes, see series 14. About 90 oversize (bulky) documents at end of series. For descriptive lists of reports, see series 15.

NAME AND SUBJECT INDEXES TO SERIES 19, 21, AND 23. 117 ft.

17

Arranged alphabetically in three subseries: (1) by name of person; (2) by name of country; and (3) by subject. Under each name or subject within each subseries the cards are arranged according to a numerical classification scheme. A guide to the scheme is at the beginning of series 14.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED DESCRIPTIVE LISTS ("ACCESSION LISTS") OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS IN SERIES 19. Jan. 25, 1944-May 13, 1946.

18

6 binders. 1 ft.

Arranged chronologically by date of list and thereunder numerically.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ("XL" SERIES). 1941-46.  
185 ft.

19

Arranged numerically. These reports were maintained apart from the "Regular" series because their circulation was limited to specific offices or individuals. For name and subject indexes, see series 17. For descriptive lists of reports, see series 18.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED DESCRIPTIVE LISTS ("ACCESSION LISTS") OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS IN SERIES 21. Nov. 24, 1942-Sept. 7, 1945.  
11 binders. 2 ft.

20

Arranged chronologically by date of list and thereunder numerically.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ("L" SERIES). 1942-45.  
135 ft.

21

Arranged numerically. The reports in this series ordinarily were not circulated and access to them was more limited than to those in the "Regular" and "XL" series. For name and subject indexes, see series 17. For descriptive lists of reports, see series 20.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED DESCRIPTIVE LISTS ("ACCESSION LISTS") OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS IN SERIES 23. June 25, 1943-Aug. 30, 1945.  
3 binders. 8 in.

22

Arranged chronologically by date of list and thereunder numerically.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS RELATING TO ENEMY LOGISTICS ("ORDER OF BATTLE" SERIES). 1942-45. 63 ft.

23

Arranged numerically. For name and subject indexes, see series 17. For descriptive lists of reports, see series 22.

CARD ABSTRACTS OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ("REGULAR," "L," AND "XL" SERIES) RELATING TO CONDITIONS AND EVENTS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. 1942-45. 24 ft.

24

Arranged by original "dissemination" number of report. The dissemination number is prefixed by the letter "A."

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS OF INTERVIEWS OF ALIEN REFUGEES RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES CONDUCTED BY THE SURVEY OF FOREIGN EXPERTS. 1942-43. 4 ft.

25

Arranged numerically. A few unarranged records of the survey are at the end of the series.

CROSS-REFERENCE CARDS TO UNIDENTIFIED REPORTS RELATING TO EUROPEAN AND ASIAN COUNTRIES. 1942-45. 28 ft.

26

2. Economics Division

- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE OF EMILE DESPRES, DIVISION CHIEF.  
1941-45. 10 in. 27  
Arranged alphabetically by subject. Some of the documents originated in the Office of the Coordinator of Information and others reflect Mr. Despres' assignment as a parttime official of the Department of State.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS. 1942-44. 4 in. 28  
Arranged by subject.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS PREPARED BY THE ECONOMICS DIVISION OF  
THE OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION. 1941-42.  
2 binders. 4 in. 29  
Arranged and numbered in chronological order.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS CONCERNING RECOVERY OF LOOTED ART  
TREASURES IN GERMANY. 1940-45. 1 in. 30  
Arranged chronologically.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN  
EUROPE AND IN NORTH AFRICA. 1941-44. 8 in. 31  
Arranged and numbered in chronological order.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS RELATING TO GERMAN MANPOWER. 1942-44.  
6 in. 32  
Arranged and numbered in chronological order.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS RELATING TO MILITARY SUPPLIES OF THE  
AXIS POWERS. 1942-44. 5 in. 33  
Arranged and numbered by date of receipt.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS ON INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES OF AXIS POWERS.  
1942-43. 5 in. 34  
Arranged and numbered by date of receipt.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS CONCERNING GERMAN TRADE AND SHIPPING.  
1942. 1 in. 35  
Arranged chronologically.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS RELATING TO ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL  
CONDITIONS IN GERMANY. 1943-44. 2 in. 36  
Arranged and numbered in chronological order.

3. Europe-Africa Division

- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DIVISION CHIEF. 1942-45. 3 ft. 37  
Arranged alphabetically by subject or by name of person or agency. Some unarranged material at end of series.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. 1941-45. 3 ft. 38  
Arranged alphabetically by subject or by name of person or agency. Some unarranged material at end of series.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO OUTPOSTS. 1942-45. 1 ft. 39  
Arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder chronologically.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS RELATING TO AFFAIRS AND CONDITIONS IN EUROPE AND AFRICA. 1942-45. 10 in. 40  
Correspondence unarranged; reports arranged numerically.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CABLEGRAMS RECEIVED FROM AND SENT TO OUTPOSTS. 1944-45. 1 in. 41  
Arranged according to incoming and outgoing subseries and thereunder chronologically.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORTS. Sept. 1943-June 1945. 5 in. 42  
Arranged chronologically.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS OF CONVERSATIONS WITH IMPORTANT FOREIGNERS, PARTICULARLY DELEGATES TO THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE ("CONTACT FILE"). 1945. 5 in. 43  
Arranged alphabetically by name of country or representative foreign group.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED "CIVIL AFFAIRS GUIDES" AND CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO CONDITIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN GERMANY AND GERMAN-OCCUPIED COUNTRIES. 1944-45. 4 ft. 44  
Arranged by name of country and thereunder by subject.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED "OUTPOST INFORMATIONAL LETTERS." Dec. 1943-July 1945. 5 in. 45  
Arranged chronologically. These circular letters were prepared for distribution to the field offices.
- SECURITY-CLASSIFIED RECORDS RELATING TO THE ALGIERS OUTPOST. 1943-44. 3 in. 46  
Arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED RECORDS RELATING TO OUTPOST ACTIVITIES IN THE BAIKANS. 1944-46. 10 in.	<u>47</u>
Arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.	
SECURITY-CLASSIFIED RECORDS RELATING TO THE CAIRO OUTPOST. 1944-45. 10 in.	<u>48</u>
Arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.	
SECURITY-CLASSIFIED RECORDS RELATING TO OUTPOSTS IN FRANCE. 1944-45. 10 in.	<u>49</u>
Arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.	
SECURITY-CLASSIFIED RECORDS RELATING TO OUTPOSTS IN GERMANY. 1945. 4 in.	<u>50</u>
Arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.	
SECURITY-CLASSIFIED RECORDS RELATING TO OUTPOSTS IN ITALY. 1943-45. 1 ft.	<u>51</u>
Arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.	
SECURITY-CLASSIFIED RECORDS RELATING TO THE LONDON OUTPOST. 1944-45. 2 ft.	<u>52</u>
Arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.	
<u>4. Far East Division</u>	
SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE WITH OSS OUTPOSTS. 1942-46. 3 ft.	<u>53</u>
Arranged alphabetically by name of outpost.	
SECURITY-CLASSIFIED RECORDS. 1944-45. 5 in.	<u>54</u>
Arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.	
REPORTS RELATING TO AFFAIRS AND CONDITIONS IN CHINA AND IN FORMOSA. 1941-46. 2 ft.	<u>55</u>
Arranged by subject.	
<u>5. Latin America Division</u>	
SECURITY-CLASSIFIED BIWEEKLY LATIN AMERICA SITUATION REPORTS. 1944-45. 10 in.	<u>56</u>
Arranged chronologically.	
PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF FRITZ EHEMANN, A GERMAN MERCHANT IN VENEZUELA. 5 in.	<u>57</u>
Unarranged. All text is in German. The inclusive dates of this collection are ca. 1897-1925.	

C. Board of Analysts, 1941-43

The Board reported directly to the Chief of the Research and Analysis Branch.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED MINUTES OF MEETINGS. Sept. 1941-June 1943.

4 binders. 5 in.

Arranged chronologically.

58

D. Projects Committee, 1942-46

The Projects Committee authorized, scheduled, and approved all study and research projects of the Research and Analysis Branch.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED MINUTES OF MEETINGS. Aug. 1942-Jan. 1946.

16 binders. 2 ft.

Arranged chronologically.

59

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE. 1943-45. 5 in.

Arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder chronologically.

60

E. Interdepartmental Committee for the Acquisition of Foreign Publications, 1942-45

The Research and Analysis Branch was responsible for the activities of the Interdepartmental Committee for the Acquisition of Foreign Publications. This unit, which was sponsored and financed by the OSS, collected (often in the form of microfilm copies) foreign newspapers, periodicals, books, technical and trade journals, and other library materials and in this way served all Government agencies interested in foreign publications.

1. New Delhi, India, Outpost

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE. 1944-45. 2 in.

Arranged chronologically.

61

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED INFORMATIONAL AND INTELLIGENCE REPORTS RELATING TO CONDITIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. 1944-45. 10 in.

Arranged alphabetically by name of country or subject to which the report relates.

62

2. Stockholm, Sweden, Outpost

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. 1942-45. 5 in.

Arranged alphabetically by name or by subject.

63

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON,  
LONDON, AND PARIS RELATING TO ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN PUBLICA-  
TIONS. 1942-45. 4 binders. 4 in.  
Arranged by city and thereunder chronologically.

64

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE FINANCE BRANCH OF THE OSS RELATING  
TO PERSONNEL. 1943-45. 2 binders. 2 in.  
Arranged chronologically.

65

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED INTERROGATION REPORTS OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF  
WAR RELATING TO THE CONDITION OF GERMAN ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES,  
BOOK TRADE, AND PUBLISHING INDUSTRY. 1944-45. 1 binder. 1 in.  
Arranged numerically. These interrogations were conducted in  
England by the Interdepartmental Committee.

66

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED SEMIMONTHLY OUTPOST LETTERS AND MONTHLY RE-  
PORTS RECEIVED FROM THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE. 1945.  
1 binder. 1 in.  
Letters arranged chronologically. Included is a 1943 report  
by the Executive Secretary of the Committee.

67

CARD FILE OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS SENT TO WASHINGTON AND LONDON.  
1943-45. 8 ft.  
Arranged by country of publication and thereunder alphabetically  
by name of author or by name of publication.

68

CARD FILE OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS SENT TO WASHINGTON. n.d.  
1 ft.  
Arranged in two subseries: newspapers and periodicals. Each  
subseries arranged alphabetically by name of publication.

69

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED LIST OF GERMAN PERIODICALS MAINTAINED BY THE  
STOCKHOLM OUTPOST. Dec. 1944. 1 binder. 1 in.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of periodical.

70

LISTS OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS THAT WERE MICROFILMED. 1942-45.  
1 ft.  
Arranged by microfilm roll number.

71

SWEDISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS AND RELATED MATERIALS.  
1943-45. 1 ft.  
Arranged partly by subject.

72

F. Field Offices, 1942-45

1. European Theater of Operations

This field office of the Research and Analysis Branch was called the London Office in 1942. In the spring of 1945 the office was moved from London to Paris.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. 1944-45. 3 ft.

Arranged by subject and thereunder chronologically.

73

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE OF BRANCH CHIEFS CHANDLER MORSE AND WILLIAM LANGER. 1943-45. 1 ft.

Arranged by name of person or place or by subject.

74

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE OF DEPUTY CHIEF ALLAN EVANS. 1942-45. 2 ft.

Arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder chronologically.

75

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BIOGRAPHICAL RECORDS DIVISION. 1944-45. 2 in.

Arranged by name of place or by subject.

76

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ENEMY OBJECTIVE UNIT OF THE ECONOMIC WARFARE DIVISION. 1943-45. 3 ft.

Arranged by name of person or by subject.

77

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE OF THE LONDON JOINT TARGET GROUP. 1944. 1/2 in.

Arranged chronologically. Included are minutes of meetings.

78

TOP-SECRET REPORTS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON JOINT OIL TARGET COMMITTEE. July-Oct. 1944. 3 in.

Arranged chronologically.

79

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED RECORDS OF THE LONDON JOINT OIL TARGET COMMITTEE. 1944-45. 1 in.

Arranged by subject and thereunder chronologically.

80

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE OF THE OSS MISSION TO GERMANY. 1944-45. 1 ft.

Arranged according to an alpha-numeric scheme.

81

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED REPORTS OF THE OSS MISSION TO FRANCE RELATING TO FRENCH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. 1945. 2 in.

Arranged chronologically.

82

2. Mediterranean Theater of Operations

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE. 1943-45. 10 in.

83

Arranged alphabetically by subject or by name of person and  
thereunder chronologically.

3. China Theater of Operations

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE. 1944-45. 10 in.

84

Arranged by subject.

II. Records of the Visual Presentation Branch, 1942-45

PROJECT CASE FILES OF WORKING PAPERS RELATING TO MAPS, CHARTS,  
MOTION PICTURES, AND OTHER GRAPHIC ISSUANCES PREPARED BY THE  
BRANCH. 1942-45. 14 ft.

85

Arranged numerically by project number.

III. Records of the Foreign Nationalities Branch, 1941-45

The Branch maintained contact with "hyphenated nationality groups" in the United States and analyzed, indexed, and processed information gathered from them for dissemination to planning and operating branches of the OSS, to the State Department, and to other Government agencies.

SECURITY-CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE. 1941-45. 2 in.

86

Arranged chronologically.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

R.G. 226, Records of the Office of  
Strategic Services

*Inventory*  
Inventory: NM-54 (1965)

Security-classified records of the Research and Analysis Branch including its divisions, committees, and field offices. Primary responsibility for declassification guidance on OSS R & A records resides in its successor, The Department of State. However, because OSS operational documents are widely scattered among this file, the CIA will want to provide appropriate guidance in those cases.

Descriptions of some records of CIA interest pre-dating 1943 can be found under Entries 3,4,5,7,9,10,11,16,19,21,30,46,51, 53,55,83,86.

1941-46  
930 cu.ft.  
95% classified